



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Belgium-Luxembourg

Organic

The number of Organic Farmers in Belgium has the Potential to Increase Ten-fold

1999

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Report Highlights:

Organic farming in Belgium is poised for growth with the potential for a ten-fold increase in the number of producers.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels [BE1], BE

The following is based on an article that appeared in the April 30th edition of Agra Europe.

According to the Belgian Farm Minister Karel Pinxten, organic farming in Belgium is poised for growth with the potential for a ten-fold increase in the number of producers. "A change in consumer attitudes toward agricultural produce has meant supply has had to respond to greater demand for organic foods", said Pinxten. "European and domestic legislation offer more reliable guarantees to the consumer than before. Belgium's own "Royal Seal" for organic meat and dairy produce offers an assurance that few other EU member states can boast. Only France and Denmark have such comprehensive rules", claimed the Minister.

He added that while aid programs will continue until the year 2000, organic agriculture "will have to fly with its own wings". Once the sector has secured itself a firm place in the market, it will be up to the rest of the market chain and the consumer to support the industry, he said.